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COMPENDIUM OF DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ON THE EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC AND INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRADE AND THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND OTHER AFRICAN FORUMS SINCE 1980

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its ninth session held in Addis Ababa from 17 to 20 March 1987 the Conference of African Ministers of Trade expressed serious concern on the non implementation of its previous decisions in the field of domestic and intra African trade and appealed to all African Trade Ministers to take up this matter with their respective governments. The Conference requested the ECA Secretariat to publish all resolutions, recommendations and decisions which were taken by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to promote domestic and intra African trade.

2. It is in compliance with this request that this compendium has been prepared. In addition to all the resolutions and decisions relating to trade which were adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers the compendium also includes all resolutions and decisions related to trade which were adopted by the OAU Summit sessions and the U.N. General Assembly at its special session devoted to the African Economic Crisis with a view to making the document more comprehensive.

3. The Compendium is intended for information and appropriate action by member countries.

PART I: RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DOMESTIC AND INTRA AFRICAN TRADE INCLUDED IN THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE OAU AT THEIR 3RD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION HELD IN LAGOS, NIGERIA IN APRIL 1980 DEVOTED TO AFRICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Domestic Trade

4. Particular attention should be given to domestic trade and to improving the conditions under which it is now taking place so as to optimise its contributions to the socio economic development of member States. To this end steps should be taken where appropriate:

(a) to promote internal trade at the national level with particular attention to the potentials offered by the rural markets;

(b) to rationalise channels of distribution with a view in particular to minimising the number of intermediaries and to ensuring control thereof by indigenous enterprises whether private or public or a combination of both;

(c) to keep a balance between investment in the domestic trade sector and investment in productive sectors in such a way as to ensure that the growth of the former does not jeopardise the growth of the latter.

Intra-African trade expansion

5. In so far as intra-African trade expansion, which is meant to constitute the mainstay for the present strategy, is concerned, the following measures are recommended:

(i) Reduction or elimination of trade barriers

(a) Interested countries within the framework of their respective MULPOCs based at Gisenyi, Yaounde and Tangier, should commence negotiations among themselves as soon as possible, with a view to establishing appropriate preferential trade areas or similar institutions, not later than December 1984. In this connection the establishment of a preferential trade area of the North African States should be accorded appropriate priority.

(b) In anticipation of establishing preferential trade areas or institutions by the end of 1984, inter-subregional negotiations should commence thereafter but not later than 1985 with a view to progressively reducing and eventually eliminating inter-subregional trade barriers.

(c) Existing economic integration groupings which have advanced beyond the level of preferential trade area arrangements should be assisted in achieving more advanced co-operation arrangements among themselves.

(d) The reduction and eventual elimination of trade barriers should place particular emphasis on the exchange of essential goods while ensuring that no undue advantage is taken of the liberalization process.

(e) Member States should endeavour to eliminate all obstacles which have the effect of curtailing trade among themselves by the year 1990.

(f) Member States should grant to each other most favoured nation treatment in their international trade as soon as possible.

(g) All customs duties applied by member countries to intra-African countries (cereals, coffee, pulses, sugar, meat, maize, fish, oilseeds, rice, wheat, sorghum, tea, vegetable oils, etc.) should be substantially reduced not later than December 1984, and the machinery for negotiating further tariff cuts at intervals of two years be established at the regional level.

(h) All food products originating from member countries should be exempted from the application of regulatory non-tariff barriers except health requirements, effective from January 1983.

(iii) Mechanisms and measures for the facilitation and development of trade

(a) To minimise the use of foreign exchange and promote intra African trade, studies should be undertaken by the OAU, ECA and other competent organisations as soon as possible on the demand and supply of major intra-African trade commodities with a view to assisting governments in establishing agricultural and non agricultural commodity exchange arrangements at the sub regional and regional levels before the end of 1985.

(b) Member States should endeavour to establish specialised marketing organisations in respect of their major export/import commodities not later than the end of 1985 with a view eventually to establishing sub regional and regional councils of buyers and sellers for each major commodity by the end of 1985.

(c) Studies should be undertaken by the OAU, ECA and other competent organisations and action should be taken to establish adequate bulk storage and conservation facilities for food commodities at the national and sub regional levels not later than the end of 1985.

(d) Associations of state trading organisations should be established at the sub regional level which should evolve into an African Association of State Trading Organisations not later than the end of 1985, with a view to harmonising their operational policies and procedures and arriving at the joint procurement of selected key imports among the countries concerned.

(e) Governments should promote and facilitate the establishment of national Chambers of Commerce (where they do not exist) to include both state and private trading companies with a view to establishing sub regional associations (wherever they do not yet exist) and aimed to facilitate the setting up of an African Federation of Chambers of Commerce not later than 1985.

(f) Considering the need to promote foreign trade in general and intra-African trade in particular, all countries which do not have them should endeavour to establish trade promotion councils which should be responsible for the establishment of trade promotion centres with a view eventually to bringing such centres within sub regional associations and expanding the activities of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organisations.

(g) To reduce the cost of trade promotion activities, member States should endeavour to establish, through sub regional associations of trade promotion centres and through the Association of African Trade Promotion Organisations joint facilities for conducting market surveys, disseminating information on trade and training experts in foreign trade promotion.

(h) Member States should endeavour to establish within their territory the intermediate processing plants in their industrial production chain now located outside Africa in order to maximise the potentialities of intra African trade.

(i) Trade data banks should be established at the sub regional and regional levels.

(j) Countries which have not established national standards bodies should do so as soon as possible.

(k) Membership of the African Regional Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) which presently comprises only 16 countries, should be expanded to include all member States by the end of 1982. ARSO should be entrusted with the task of establishing African regional standards for all products of interest to intra-African trade. If need be, ECA should be requested to offer the necessary advice and assistance.

(l) Trade fairs and publicity campaigns should be held at least annually at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, with particular emphasis on publicising the quality of African products. In this respect, ARSO should operate a regional certification marking scheme with a view to certifying the quality of and promoting African products. A permanent 'Buy African Goods' campaign should also be vigorously launched under the aegis of OAU and ECA within the framework of the all African trade fairs, starting with the next fair to be held in 1980. Participation in these fairs should be confined solely to African countries with a view to promoting African products.

(m) Member States should identify goods which are largely consumed in rural areas with a view to promoting their production on a large scale and making them available for intra-African trade.

(n) The OAU and the ECA should conduct studies on border trade in the region with a view to examining the extent to which such trade could make an optimum contribution to the socio-economic development of the continent.

(o) Efforts should be made constantly to explore and exploit possibilities of processing locally available raw materials for marketing within the African region.

(p) African countries should take all appropriate measures (including trade fairs and campaigns) to promote the exchange of commodities consumed in rural areas at the regional and sub-regional levels.

(q) African countries should establish distribution enterprises where they do not exist and with necessary storage facilities for their major intra-African trade commodities at the national and sub-regional levels.

(r) Multinational shipping enterprises and freight booking centres should be established by African countries at all the sub-regional levels before the end of 1985 and accorded appropriate preferential treatment in intra-African trade.

(s) Furthermore, African countries should co-operate in the establishment and improvement of the necessary transport and communications links among themselves as well as insurance facilities for indigenous tradesmen with a view to securing the quick and efficient movement of trade goods and their preservation during such movement.

(iii) Establishment of African multinational production corporations and joint ventures

(a) Given the large potential for trade creation which exists within the African region, priority should be accorded to investment in the production sector as a first step to intra-African trade expansion.

(b) Co-operation in processing of domestically available raw materials should be encouraged through the establishment of joint or multinational corporations.

(c) Countries should conclude long term purchase and supply contracts as a means of boosting their mutual trade.

(iv) Establishment of an African Common Market

The above measures including those for the establishment of sub regional arrangements and the strengthening of existing ones are meant to converge on the establishment of an African Common Market.

PART II PROGRESS MADE IN THE AREA OF DOMESTIC AND INTRA AFRICAN TRADE INCLUDED IN AFRICA'S PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY 1986-1990 (APPER) WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AT ITS TWENTY FIRST ORDINARY SESSION HELD IN ADDIS ABABA IN JULY 1985

6. In the light of the progress made in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the following sectoral measures were identified for accelerating the attainment of the objectives of the trade and finance sectors.

(a) Domestic Trade

African countries should take measures to improve the distribution channel for domestic trade and improve marketing arrangements through credit facilities. They should also undertake to reverse the present consumption patterns in favour of domestically produced goods.

(b) Intra-African Trade

Measures to increase intra African trade should include undertaking of supply and demand studies in order to identify the potential of trade and a comprehensive study on the factors affecting intra-African trade.

PART III RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DOMESTIC AND INTRA AFRICAN TRADE INCLUDED IN THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD) WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SPECIAL SESSION ON THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA FROM 27 TO 31 MAY 1986

7. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 based on mutual commitment and co-operation consists of two central elements

(a) The determination and commitment of the African countries to launch both national and regional programmes of economic development as reflected in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 1985

(b) The response of the international community and its commitment to support and complement the African development efforts

Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990

8. The African countries have fully committed themselves to the implementation of a shortly focused practical and operational set of activities priorities and policies as elaborated in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. The successful implementation of the Priority Programme will lay the foundation for durable structural changes improve levels of productivity and will ensure the early recovery of the African economies while at the same time enhancing long-term development prospects

9. The implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery should contribute to the realization of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Development of Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the United Nations Transportation and Communications Decade for Africa and the Arusha Declaration on the Food Crisis in Africa

10. Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery stimulates the following priorities at the national sub-regional and regional levels

11. In the field of trade, the objective is to improve the distribution channels for domestic trade by improving market arrangements and reversing the present consumption pattern in favour of domestically produced goods through

- Adoption of price incentives for agricultural products
- Improvement of internal distribution channels
- Identification and elimination of obstacles hindering trade expansion

In the field of financial co-operation the following measures are envisaged:

Increased utilisation of existing clearing arrangements
Adoption of co-ordinated measures to establish financial markets at the national, sub-regional and regional levels
Intensification of efforts for the establishment of an African Monetary Fund.

PART IV: RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRADE

A. STATE REGIONAL AFRICA TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT

12. The Conference adopted the following resolution on the

REVIVAL OF THE INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT

Noting with satisfaction the completion of the first phase of the Intra-African trade development project and the substantial results it has achieved since its inception in 1975,

Recalling that the development of intra-African trade was been accorded priority as resolutions 222(X)B of 13 February 1971 and 263(XII) of 20 February 1976 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and that Commission resolution 131(XII) of 22 February 1976 called for the establishment of an African payments union and a pan-African clearing system,

Recalling further the Conference of Ministers resolution 332(XIV) of 27 March 1979 on the African Strategy for development within the Third United Nations Development Decade, which emphasized the need for increasing the intra-African trade share of total African trade from 4 to 8 per cent within the next decade,

Noting that this objective was supported by the Monrovia Declaration of Commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Monrovia strategy for the economic development of Africa and related plan of action, 1/

Reconfirming the substantial contribution of the project to the efforts currently being directed towards the creation and/or the strengthening of economic, trade and payments institutions in Africa, especially through the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Bearing in mind that the work in this field is expected to increase as more and more economic and trade institutions are likely to come into being in the coming years,

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1/ OAU/Res. 728(XXXIII)

Noting further that trade and monetary co-operation is an effective instrument for the achievement of self reliance and economic integration at the subregional and regional levels

Convinced that there is a need to extend the project for a further period of three years

1. Endorsed the project document for the second phase as prepared by the secretariat

2. Expressed its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for the financial resources provided during the first phase.

3. Requested the United Nations Development Programme to provide the necessary financing for the second phase at the level indicated in the project document prepared by the secretariat

13. On the ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRD ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR the Conference adopted the following decisions

The practice of holding an All Africa Trade Fair was accepted and encouraged and all OAU member States were called upon to participate effectively Owing to a divergency of views as to the state of preparedness for the third All Africa Trade Fair to be held in Khartoum, the Sudan, the Conference directed that the members of the Preparatory Committee for the Fair should meet during the Conference and submit their recommendations to the Conference. On the basis of the Committee's report, it was noted that many delegations held the view that OAU fairs should entirely be an African affair. Other delegations, however, saw virtue in allowing non African participation in the fairs. A number of delegations were unanimous in the view that the organization of the Fair, in all its aspects, should be a matter for the Ministers of Trade alone. The conference decided

(a) That the Third All African Trade Fair should be held in Khartoum, the Sudan, should proceed as planned, namely that it should take place from 3 to 17 November 1980 and that, subject to availability of space, non African countries may be allowed to participate

(b) That in principle, the All African Trade Fair should be restricted to African countries only. To that end, if possible and subject to whatever commitment OAU had made to Ghana, in connexion with the fourth All African Trade Fair which was scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana, in 1984, the principle of an All African affair be implemented then

(c) That the matter of organizing OAU fairs should be entirely the responsibility of the Ministers of Trade rather than of the Council of Ministers

(d) That there should be a follow up committee to do a post mortem on the fairs with regard to their intended effect and a report thereon be made to the Ministers of Trade.

B. SEVENTH SESSION, ADDIS ABEBA, 1 3 FEBRUARY 1982

14. On trade promotion issues, the Conference made the following recommend

(a) Urged African countries to establish national chambers of commerce where they did not already exist;

(b) Urged all African countries to join the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO);

(c) Recommended that member States should encourage exports through appropriate measures, including reduction of export levies and other taxes;

(e) Urged member States, in co-operation with ARSO, to strive to harmonize their standards with a view to facilitating intra-African trade;

(f) Requested the ECA, OAU, AATPO and other competent African organizations, including national trade promotion centres, to intensify their trade information activities with respect to products of African origin with a view in particular to making potential buyers and sellers aware of products available at the intra-African level;

(g) Recommended that member States should pay due attention to the problem of rationalization of their trade channels with a view in particular to making it possible for African countries to trade directly between themselves and minimizing resort to triangular trade.

C. EIGHTH SESSION, BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO, 28 TO 31 OCTOBER 1985

15. The Conference agreed on the following measures for promoting domestic and intra-African trade:

(a) immediate action should be taken by all African countries to increase intra-African trade to 10 per cent of the world total by the end of 1995;

(b) increased efforts should be deployed to progressively reduce and eventually remove all trade and customs barriers to intra-African commerce, especially those affecting the cash crops specifically mentioned in the Lagos Plan of Action, by the end of 1995;

(c) efforts should be renewed to support and strengthen the sub-regional institutions for trade promotion called for in the Lagos Plan of Action;

(d) significant improvements should be made in intra-African trade information and marketing systems and system monitoring and evaluating trade performance by African countries;

(e) all African countries should commit themselves and encourage the free movement of African traders and economic operators for the purpose of promoting intra-African trade;

(f) prompt action should be undertaken to regularize increased border trade: where necessary, by creating "border free-trade zones" within which traditional operators may continue to function.

(g) priority, where circumstances permit, should be given to African tenders for the provision of goods and services offered by or originating from other African countries.

(h) use of African airlines and shipping lines should be increased for freight services and the transportation of goods for intra-African trade.

(i) appropriate pricing policies and other incentives designed to encourage domestic and intra-African trade, should be encouraged especially in food and food products.

(j) steps should be taken to link trade development with progress in other sectors such as industry, agriculture, education and training, transport and communications as outlined in paragraph 76 of the Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 adopted by the 21st Summit of OAU.

(k) prompt action should be taken to develop adequate storage and distribution facilities for intra-African trade.

(l) Ministers of transport and communications should give priority to the creation or rehabilitation of intra-country roads and rail links likely to encourage the growth of intra-African trade with particular emphasis on feeder and access roads permitting for easier transportation of rural produce to the market.

(m) Ministries of industry, science and technology and energy are requested to adopt appropriate policies and priority towards growth in intra African trade in order to promote the structural adjustments needed in the region for development.

16. The eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade adopted the following resolutions: "Resolution on the establishment and development of a regional African Trade Information System"

Mindful of the cardinal importance which the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act attached to the promotion of intra-African trade as a mainstay of the African strategy for socio-economic development and collective self reliance,

Conscious of the important role trade information plays in the development and expansion of African trade in general and especially intra-African trade,

Regretting the absence of adequate mechanisms for the dissemination of trade information between African countries,

Noting further the urgent need to strengthen national, subregional and regional services of existing trade promotion centres with a view to promoting trade information exchanges between African countries,

1. Expressed its appreciation of activities jointly undertaken by ECA and ITC (UNCTAD/GATT) for the establishment of trade data banks and a regional trade information system based on a rational use of facilities available at PADIS;

2. Invited African countries and their economic groupings to fully support joint ECA/ITC-UNCTAD/GATT activities in the field of information;

3. Invited donor countries and UNDP to provide financial support to ITC-ECA joint trade information projects;

4. Requested the ECA Executive Secretary and the ITC Executive Director to give priority to activities for the establishment of trade data banks and trade information systems.

D. NINTH SESSION, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 19 TO 20 MARCH 1987

17. The Conference reiterated the decisions taken at its eighth session, since most of them were not yet implemented.

18. In addition, the Conference adopted the following decisions in the field of domestic and intra-African trade:

1. Domestic trade

19. The Conference made the following recommendations:

(a) a full study should be undertaken in each country to determine the food requirements of the population in all areas, in particular the different food grain requirements to form the basis for domestic trade. If necessary such a study should indicate ways of introducing new staple grain in areas of chronic shortages;

(b) institute, with the collaboration of cooperative societies and commercial banks, more effective systems for providing credit to small holders and medium scale farmers and to small entrepreneurs involved in the production and marketing of simple goods including handicrafts. There must also be guaranteed prices for agricultural produce;

(c) establish proper trade distribution networks throughout the country as well as a system of buffer stock both in order to maintain steady price levels and to ensure adequate and even supplies during periods of high and low production. Such measures should include the establishment of physical plants and the development of transport facilities over long distances for goods and persons between the urban and rural areas through public investment or assistance to the private sector.

2. Intra-African trade

20. The Conference adopted the following decisions:

(a) African countries and subregional and regional institutions should implement the decisions on domestic and intra-African trade in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery adopted by African Heads of State and Government;

(b) African Governments should launch campaigns to encourage the consumption of local products;

(c) African Governments should harmonize their industrial promotion policies in order to increase the prospects for trade with each other;

(d) African Governments should study the means to enable them to put an end to extraverted banking systems;

(e) Requested the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and subregional institutions including clearing houses and the African Centre for Monetary Studies to carry out specific studies on such topics as barter trade, the problems of small markets and the harmonization of industrial production policies in order to formulate specific proposals to make the established subregional economic communities more operational;

(f) That developed donor agencies be urged to accord appreciable priority to regional and subregional groupings in providing increased financial/development resources under regional programming facilities to support activities such as infrastructural and industrial development, trade in goods of local/regional origin which will enhance intra-African trade. For the effective implementation of such a policy, donor agencies should adopt a flexible and positive attitude in formulating criteria that will facilitate the rapid development of those factors necessary for accelerating intra-African trade;

(g) Urged member countries of regional and subregional groupings to give sustained maximum financial support to such groupings and to accord them the requisite political will that will ensure the rapid realisation of the goals and objectives of these groupings;

(h) That ECA secretariat should publish all resolutions and decisions taken by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to promote domestic and intra-African trade;

(i) African Governments should reinforce their co-operation with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT which in 1973 was designated as the focal point in the UN System for technical co-operation in trade promotion. ITC's technical co-operation programmes at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels cover inter-alia; institutional infrastructure for trade promotion, product and market development including supply and demand surveys and related trade expansion follow-up

activities,national Trade information services, subregional trade information networks and telexed market news services, specialized advisory services in export packaging, quality control and standardization, costing and pricing, national commercial representation abroad, export finance services,trade fairs and commercial publicity, chambers of commerce, commodity promotion as per UNCTAD resolution 158(VI)' human resources development import operations and techniques, special programs for [illegible]

(j) African countries should develop and implement vocational training programmes in the area of trade with a view to informing and improving skills of the African traders in the informal sector,

(k) Donor countries and organizations should be urged to provide resources for the implementation of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa and [illegible] trade,

(l) member countries were urged to establish commercial banks and other trade supporting industries in each Central territories and to allocate increased financial resources to the trade sector.

21. Moreover the Conference adopted the following two resolutions:

(i) RESOLUTION ON THE FOURTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

The Conference of African Ministers of Trade

Bearing in mind the previous OAU Council of Ministers resolutions since 1967 especially its CM/Res. 274(XIV) institutionalizing the All Africa Trade Fairs and the decision of the Second Extra Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in April 1980 contained in the Lagos Plan of Action to, inter alia, launch a permanent 'Buy African Goods' campaign within the framework of the All African Trade Fair;

Recalling the decision of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Heads of Trade and Finance held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9 to 14 May 1984 to accept the offer of the Republic of Togo to host the Fourth All African Trade Fair;

Having taken note with deep appreciation of the part one of the report of the OAU Secretariat on the Fourth All Africa Trade Fair which took place in Lome, Togo from 18 November to 2 December 1985;

Recognizing the special attention demonstrated and contribution made by the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema in enabling a successful outcome of the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair;

Further recognizing the significant role that the All-Africa Fair could play in developing intra-African trade, judging from the results of the Lome Fair in terms of the level of participation, the structure and wide range of goods and the production networks and commercial exhibited

Further recalling its decision adopted in Brazzaville, the Congo in October 1985 during the eighth session of its meeting to accept the offer of Zaire to host the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair, the Conference of African Ministers of Trade:

I. FOURTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

1. Requested the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity to transmit, on behalf of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, a special message of congratulations and thanks to the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the Government and people of Togo for the exceptional efforts deployed to make the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair a success.

2. Directed the Secretary General of the OAU, in collaboration with the ECA, ITC and all relevant intergovernmental organizations especially ECOWAS, PTA, SADCC, ECCAS and the Indian Ocean Commission, to conduct a thorough assessment of the impact of all the previous All-Africa Trade Fairs and to report to the next Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

II. FIFTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

1. Took note of the preparatory activities so far undertaken by all concerned.

2. Noted and approved the 16th-31st July 1988 as the date of the Fifth All-Africa Trade Fair.

3. Urged all member States to refrain from organizing national trade fairs on dates which coincide with the date announced for the Fifth All-African Trade Fair;

4. Urged donors to provide financial assistance to collaborating agencies, such as ITC, the Regional Fund of the ACP-EEC of the Lome Convention, UNDP, UNCTAD etc. in order to enable them lend financial assistance and technical support to make the Fifth All-Africa Trade Fair a success.

5. Endorsed the choice of "Promotion of Intra-African Trade: A factor for the integration of African Economies" as the theme for fifth fair.

6. Took note with deep appreciation of the subvention of US$500,000 granted to the Fifth All Africa Trade Fair by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

7. Directed the OAU Secretariat, in collaboration with the ITC and other relevant agencies, to undertake a market survey prior to the Fifth Fair and carry out a technical assessment of the impact of the Fair.

8. Approved the composition of the Organizing Committee of the Fifth All-Africa Trade Fair as follows: Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zaire (Chairman), Cameroon, Congo, Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

9. Further approved the terms of reference of the Organizing Committee of the Fifth All Africa Trade Fair as contained in the report of the Ninth Conference of the Ministers of Trade.

(2) RESOLUTION ON THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS (AATPO)

The Conference of African Ministers of Trade

Having examined the report on the critical financial and administrative situation of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO),

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action assigns to AATPO an important role in the development of intra-African trade,

Being cognizant of AATPO's potential to discharge its responsibilities provided it is furnished with the necessary wherewithal,

Noting however, that the Association has not been availed the necessary resources to the extent required by its responsibilities and commitments, and in particular that many of the Association's members are in arrears with their contributions to the Association's budget and that this threatens the very existence of the Association:

1. Urged the States members of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) to pay to the Association their current assessed as well as arrears of their assessed contributions to the Association;

2. Appealed to all OAU and ECA member States who are not yet members of AATPO to join the Association at the earliest opportunity;

3. Called on the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to give all possible financial and technical support to AATPO and to carry out the studies requested by the eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade;

4. Appealed to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Development Fund (EDF) to give all possible financial assistance and other support to AATPO.

PART V: RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

22. At its 222nd meeting which was held on 30 April 1982, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted the resolution No. 441(XVII) on Development of Intra-African Trade 2/ which reads as follows:

2/ ECA Annual Report, E/1982/21 p. 74; E/ECA/CM.8/32/Rev.1.

The Conference of Ministers

Mindful of the cardinal importance which the Lagos Plan of Action attaches to the promotion of intra-African trade as a mainstay of the African strategy for socio-economic development,

Recalling the signing on 18 December 1981 by eleven Heads of State and Government of the Libreville Declaration on the establishment of an Economic Community of Central African States,

Recalling further the signing on 21 December 1981 at Lusaka, Zambia, by eleven countries of the Treaty on the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States,

Noting the on-going efforts of the secretariat to assist States members of the West African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre in the harmonization of the trade liberalization provisions of the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic Community and Mano River Union Treaties,

Noting further the recommendation made at the recent meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre to the effect that the secretariat should undertake comprehensive studies on the promotion of intra-subregional trade,

Aware of the recent holding in Addis Ababa of the First Symposium of Presidents and Secretaries-General of African Chambers of Commerce and of preparations being made for a meeting of Presidents and Secretaries-General of African Chambers of Commerce due to be held in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, from 26 to 31 May 1982, with a view to paving the way for the establishment of a Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, as provided for in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the key contribution made by the project financed by the United Nations Development Programme on the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation in the achievement of the above-mentioned results and the need for further assistance to be given to the project over the next United Nations Development Programme programming cycle to economic cooperation groupings in the various subregions including the Preferential Trade Area and the proposed Economic Community of Central African States,

1. Commended the eleven signatories of the Libreville Declaration for their firm determination to establish the Economic Community of Central African States and wished them full success in the conduct of the negotiations for the creation of the said Community;

2. Expressed its appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the efforts already made and requested him to intensify his assistance and advisory activities towards the promotion of intra-African trade at both the intra-sub-regional and inter-subregional levels;

3. Further commended the eleven States of Eastern and Southern Africa which have already signed the Treaty on the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area and urged them to ratify it as soon as possible and also urged those countries of Eastern and Southern Africa which have not yet signed the Treaty to do so without delay;

4. Requested the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to earmark from the existing indicative planning figures, resources for the newly established Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States to promote inter-country trade within the Preferential Trade Area;

5. Took note with appreciation of the efforts being pursued by the State members of the West African and North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centres towards the promotion of intra-subregional trade in their respective subregions;

6. Urged all African Chambers of Commerce and subregional associations of Chambers of Commerce to attend the forthcoming Salisbury meeting and take appropriate steps for the establishment of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce;

7. Noted with satisfaction the results achieved by the project on the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation during the period 1979-1981 and expressed its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for having provided the Commission with financial resources for the implementation of this project;

8. Further took note with satisfaction of the positive recommendation made by the evaluation team composed of representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme for the continuation of this project and urgently appealed to the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide financial assistance at the current or at an increased level for the duration of the Programme's programming cycle 1982-1986.

23. At its 233rd the Conference adopted the following four resolutions 3/

(a) 513(XIV) Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the Third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Recalling previous decisions taken especially by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its seventh meeting held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 4 February 1982

3/ ECA Annual Report, E/1984/21, p.123, E/ECA/CM.10/38.

Conscious of the beneficial results yielded by previous All-Africa Trade Fairs, held in Nairobi, Algiers and Khartoum for the purpose of stimulating intra-African trade,

Welcoming the offer made by Togo to host the Fourth All Africa Trade Fair,

Recognizing with appreciation the financial contributions made by the OAU Council of Ministers towards the organization of All-Africa Trade Fairs,

1. Decided to accept Togo's offer to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair in 1985;

2. Further decided that the following member States: Algeria, Angola, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Nigeria, the Sudan (previous host), Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe should constitute an Organizing Committee for the Fourth All Africa Trade Fair under the chairmanship of Togo;

3. Called upon the Executive Secretary to appeal to the Council of Ministers of the OAU through the Secretary-General of OAU to continue to subsidize All Africa Trade Fairs particularly the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair which is scheduled to take place in Lome in the Republic of Togo.

(b) 514(XIX) Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts exerted by the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations to realize its objectives and raise extrabudgetary finance for implementing its work programme,

Conscious of the fact that the Association could make a considerable contribution to the development of intra African trade if given adequate encouragement and support from African countries,

Strongly appealed to:

(1) all member States of the Association that have not paid their contributions to the budget of the Association to do so without further delay;

(2) those African countries that have not yet joined the Association to do so as soon as possible;

(3) the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of OAU to continue to assist AATPO in its attempts to mobilize external technical and financial assistance for the implementation of its work programme;

(4) [illegible] and other international organizations and donor countries to consider requests for technical and financial assistance by the Association favourably.

(c) 515(XIX) Establishment of the African Federation of Chambers of Commerce

The Conference of Ministers

Conscious of the need for concerted and urgent action on the measures outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action so as to attain the goals of rapid collective self-reliance and self-sustaining development and economic growth for African countries,

Recalling Chapter VII, paragraph 250(ii) of the Lagos Plan of Action, urging governments to promote and facilitate the establishment of national chambers of commerce (where they do not exist), to include both State and private trading companies, with a view to establishing subregional associations (wherever they do not yet exist) and to agree to facilitate the setting up of an African Federation of Chambers of Commerce not later than 1985,

Convinced that national chambers of commerce and federations associations or unions of chambers of commerce can play a more vital role in expanding and promoting intra-African trade,

Taking note with satisfaction of the efforts made so far by the national chambers of commerce of the region, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) and other organizations and individual African countries towards the creation of the Federation,

Further taking note of the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

1. Called upon African Governments to give full support to their national Associations of Chambers of Commerce so as to ensure their effective participation in the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce;

2. Further called upon African national Associations of Chambers of Commerce to decide without further delay to designate one national representative to participate at the inaugural meeting of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce as required by the Constitution adopted at the meeting of African Chambers of Commerce held in Cairo in November 1983,

(d) 516(XIV) Development of Intra-African Trade

The Conference of Ministers

Mindful of the cardinal importance which the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act attach to the promotion of intra-African trade as the mainstay of the African strategy for socio-economic development and collective self reliance,

Conscious of the need for the creation and strengthening of African subregional economic groupings with a view to establishing an African Common Market by the year 2000 as required in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the important contribution made by the project financed by UNDP on the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation in the pursuit of the above-named objectives,

Noting with satisfaction the results of that project in assisting in the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and other supporting institutions, and the strengthening of existing economic groupings,

Noting further the urgent need for continued assistance in the development of those newly created institutions and the establishment of links among the various economic groupings with a view to facilitating the gradual establishment of an African Common Market,

Taking note of the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

1. Deplored the fact that ECA does not have the necessary resources to continue the project despite the encouraging results achieved so far in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, particularly in the area of promoting intra-African trade;

2. Invited the member States of ECA to promote Intra-African trade and to facilitate such trade, particularly the removal of non-physical barriers;

3. Appealed to all African countries and African institutions, especially the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), to provide financial support for activities in this field;

4. Expressed its gratitude to UNDP for having provided the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the project between 1979 and 1982;

5. Requested the Governing Council of UNDP to review the results of the project and reconsider the possibility of continuing financial support so that ECA may continue to assist African member States in the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation.

24. On 20 April 1985, at its 24lst meeting the Conference of Ministers adopted the resolution No. 641(XX) on the Role of Trade and Finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis, as follows: 4/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos concerning the vital role played by trade and finance in the socio-economic transformation of the African economies,

Noting that the Lagos Plan of Action called for nationalization of distribution in domestic trade and structures in order to ensure internally generated, self-sustaining growth,

Mindful of the fact that despite the establishment of subregional economic groupings, no measurable achievements have been made towards the liberalization and expansion of intra-African trade and that the growth of intra African trade remains too small to ensure collective self-reliance

A. At National level

Recommends that all African countries take measures for developing effective distribution channels in domestic trade and finance as a means of ensuring internally generated balanced growth

B. Subregional and regional levels

1. Urges the African countries through the subregional and regional institutions, to adopt new measures to launch a "buy African goods" campaign so as to promote intra-African trade in agricultural products especially food, basic manufactured consumer goods and raw materials

2. Stresses the urgent need for all African Governments to provide full support to the newly established Federation of African Chambers of Commerce as an important private-sector institution for the development and expansion of intra-African trade;

3. Called upon all countries which have not yet done so to join the existing subregional payments and clearing arrangements, such as the West African Clearing House, the Central African Clearing House and the Preferential Trade Area Clearing House, and to ensure that maximum use is made of these institutions in the settlement of intra-African trade transactions and other payments

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4/ ECA Annual Report E/1985/36, p. 93. E/ECA/CM.11/81.

4. Further called upon those countries which have not yet formed their own subregional payments and clearing arrangements to establish such institutions.

25. At its twentieth session held from 25 to 29 April 1985, the Conference adopted the following practical measures for the accelerated attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action in the field of domestic and intra-African trade to be submitted to the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity:

(a) Domestic trade

A thorough inventory of domestic trade potentials should be carried out in each country particularly in food and food products; corrective measures should be introduced in the pricing mechanisms of agricultural commodities so as to facilitate the formulation of pricing policies which deliberately provide incentives to local producers and domestic distribution channels, with a view to decentralizing supplies so as to overcome local distribution problems, and to combating inflation, a review of commercial banking and credit facilities should be undertaken and appropriate measures taken to ensure that credit lines are made available to local private and public enterprises specializing in domestic trade and domestic resource-based production units should be promoted and should be accompanied by extensive education campaigns designed to reverse the present consumption patterns in favour of domestically produced goods.

(b) Intra-African trade

Measures directed at increasing intra-African trade should include the following: undertaking of supply and demand studies at the subregional level in order to identify the potential of intra-subregional and intra-regional trade; the development of regional standards for products of interest to intra-African trade should be intensified; negotiations on medium and long-term supply and purchase contracts should be commenced; consultations on the harmonization of trade liberalization arrangements among subregional economic groupings should be started to lay ground for the establishment of an African Common Market; measures should be taken at the subregional level to establish joint production ventures and marketing channels and to exchange information among member States for the purpose of promoting intra-African trade; member States should as much as possible direct all their intra subregional trade transactions through the existing clearing houses by imposing regulations requiring that payments be made through clearing houses; subregional import and export credit facilities to be backed by the African Development Bank and/or existing subregional and national development banks should be established.

In addition, member States are requested to undertake effective measures towards:

(i) Reduction and removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers restricting intra-African trade;

(ii) Revising and where necessary, implementing trade and payment agreements applicable to intra-African exchanges of goods and services with a view to minimizing the use of convertible currencies particularly through African clearing

houses, for the purpose of promoting intra-African trade and economic co-operation;

(iii) Creation of trade centres and organization of trade fairs in each others' countries.

The ECA secretariat, assisted by other relevant institutions as appropriate, is requested to compile a comprehensive study on the factors affecting intra-African trade, including in particular:

(1) Tariffs and non-tariff barriers affecting intra-African trade;

(2) African trade and payment agreements, including barter;

(3) Exchange rates and exchange control policies affecting intra-African trade and economic co-operation;

(4) Unrecorded or border trade;

(5) Study of experiences on the payments mechanisms of other subregions to promote intra-African trade.

The ECA secretariat is also requested to submit its recommendations with respect to measures that could be taken to promote intra-African trade, bearing in mind the results of the above comprehensive study, which should also include a section on African exportable goods and services which could substitute non-African imports of goods and services such as shipping, consultancy and contracting services.

26. By its resolution No. 568(XXI) on Trade and development finance 5/ adopted at its 247th meeting held on 19 April 1986,

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa, and its annex which, inter alia, stressed the heavy dependence of African countries on the export of a few primary commodities, rendering them particularly vulnerable to sharp price fluctuations that result in drastic shortfalls in export earnings so that urgent action is needed to stabilize commodity prices, improve market access for African primary and non-primary products and diversify production,

Recalling further Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, adopted by the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, and the important role which trade and finance can play in the implementation of the Priority Programme,

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5/ ECA Annual Report, E/1986/33 p. 80; E/ECA/CM.12/45.

Welcoming its resolution 741(XX) of 29 April 1985 on the role of trade and finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis, in which it expressed grave concern about the diminishing role played by international trade and finance in dealing with Africa's current economic and social crisis in the wake of an unfavourable international economic environment,

Noting that the lack of proper linkages between the development of agriculture and industry and of trade has been one of the major factors responsible for the slow rate of industrialization and, in particular, for increased unutilized capacity in many African countries,

Noting further that the development and expansion of domestic and intra-African trade continues to be accorded low priority in the national development plans of many African countries,

Aware of the important role which the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations plays and can continue to play in promoting the trade of African countries, especially domestic and intra-African trade,

Recognizing the need to minimize the impact of international economic instability, increase foreign exchange reserves and expand export earnings from both primary and non-primary exports,

Taking note of the resolutions on trade and finance adopted at the 1986 annual meetings of the Councils of Ministers of the Yaounde-, Lusaka- and Kigali-based MULPOCs, the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of State of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, and the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

1. Appealed to Member States to intensify their efforts to explore new opportunities for domestic trade expansion and to adopt new policies so as to promote the production, marketing and distribution of locally produced goods, especially agricultural products including food, within each member State as a top priority policy option for attaining national self-reliance;

2. Further appealed to member states to accord greater priority to measures for increasing intra-African trade, especially in cereals and other commodities identified in the Lagos Plan of Action, namely rice, coffee, tea, maize, sorghum, wheat, pulses, sugar, meat, fish, oil-seeds and vegetable oils, to 10 per cent of Africa's total trade by the year 1995, and to reduce and eventually remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to intra-African trade and effectively promote intra-African trade in industrial products;

3. Called upon all member States to support financially and thereby strengthen the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations as well as other sub-regional and regional organizations charged with the promotion of trade and economic co-operation as a means for achieving collective self-reliance at the subregional and regional levels;

4. Reiterated the need to bring the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, which was established in September 1984, into an operational phase at the earliest possible date, and urged all African Governments to ensure that membership subscriptions are paid to the interim secretariat of the Federation before 30 June 1986 in order to enable it to begin its operations without further delay;

5. Further urged those national chambers of commerce which have not yet done so to join the Federation as soon as possible;

6. Invited member States to accelerate the process of economic integration within existing subregional groupings and to promote the establishment of economic integration mechanisms in the subregions where they do not yet exist, inter-alia, by assisting the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in carrying out the following activities:

(i) Study of unregulated frontier trade in Central Africa;

(ii) Round Table of economic operators and Government representatives in Central Africa;

(iii) Strengthening of the operations of the Trade Promotion and Training Centre for Eastern and Southern African States;

(iv) Convening of an intergovernmental expert meeting to study trade measures and policies, particularly those relating to the project for the establishment of a preferential trade area and payments and clearing system for North African States;

(v) Establishment of a commodity exchange for Eastern and Southern African States.

7. Appealed to all bilateral and multilateral donors to include in their financing package measures for promoting and expanding African trade as an essential element of development;

8. Further appealed to the United Nations Development Programme to increase financial assistance to the Economic Commission for Africa during the fourth programming cycle so as to enable the Commission to assist member States effectively in the implementation of programmes and projects designed to promote intra-African and external trade as a means of increasing their foreign exchange earnings.

27. At its 251st meeting held on 24 April 1987, the Conference adopted the following resolutions 6/

(a) 530(XXII) Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair and preparations for the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair 7/

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the previous OAU Council of Ministers resolutions since 1967 especially its CM/Res.277(XIX) institutionalizing the All-Africa Trade Fairs and the decision of the second extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU in April 1980 contained in the Lagos

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6/ ECA Annual Report, E/1987/36, E/ECA/CM.13/60

7/ Morocco expressed reservation on 1 and on 11 No. 7 of this resolution.

Plan of Action to, inter alia, launch a permanent "Buy African Goods" campaign within the framework of the All-Africa Trade Fairs,

Recalling the decision of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the whole on Trade and Finance held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9 to 14 May 1984 to accept the offer of the Republic of Togo to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair,

Taking note with deep appreciation, of Part I of the Report of the OAU secretariat on the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair which took place in Lome, Togo, from 18 November to 3 December 1985,

Recognizing the special attention demonstrated and contribution made by the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema in enabling a successful outcome of the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair,

Further recognizing the functional role that the All-Africa Trade Fair could play in developing intra-African trade, judging from the results of the Lome Fair in terms of the level of participation, the structure and wide range of goods and the production capacity and potential exhibited,

Recalling the decision of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade adopted at its eighth meeting in Brazzaville, the Congo, in October 1985 to accept the offer of Zaire to host the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair,

I. Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair

1. Requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to transmit, on behalf of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, a special message of congratualtions and thanks to the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the Government and people of Togo for the exceptional efforts deployed to make the fourth All-Africa Trade Fair a success;

2. Directed the Secretary-General of OAU, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Trade Centre and all relevant inter-governmental organizations, especially the Economic Community of West African States, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Indian Ocean Commission, to conduct a thorough assessment of the impact of all the previous All-Africa Trade Fairs and to report to the next meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

II. Fifth All-Africa Trade Fair

1. Took note of the preparatory activities so far undertaken by all concerned;

2. Noted and approved 16-31 July 1988 as the duration of the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair;

3. Urged all member States to refrain from organizing national trade fairs on dates which coincided with the date announced for the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair;

4. Urged donors to provide financial assistance to collaborating agencies such as ITC, the Regional Fund of the ACP-EEC of the Lome Convention, UNDP, UNCTAD, etc;, in order to enable them lend financial assistance and technical support to make the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair a success;

5. Endorsed the choice of "Promotion of intra-African trade: A factor for the integration of African economies" as the theme for the fifth Fair;

6. Took note with deep appreciation of the subvention of $US 500,000 granted to the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity;

7. Directed the OAU secretariat, in collaboration with ITC and other relevant agencies, to undertake a market survey prior to the fifth Fair and carry out a technical assessment of the impact of the Fair;

8. Approved the composition of the organizing Committee of the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair as follows: Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire (Chairman), Cameroon, the Congo, Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe;

9. Further approved the terms of reference of the Organizing Committee of the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair as contained in the report of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade on its ninth meeting.

(b) 592(XXII) Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations 8/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the report on the critical financial and administrative situation of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO),

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000 9/ assigns to AATPO an important role in the development of intra-African trade,

Cognizant of AATPO's potential to discharge its responsibilities provided it is furnished with the necessary wherewithal,

Noting however that the Association has not been availed with the necessary resources to the extent required by its responsibilities and commitments, and in particular that many of the Association's members are in arrears with their contributions to the Association's budget, and that this threatens the very existence of the Association,

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8/ Morocco expressed reservation on this resolution.

9/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

1. Urged the States members of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations to pay to the Association their current assessed contributions as well as arrears of their assessed contributions to the Association,

2. Appealed to all OAU and ECA member States who are not yet members of AATPO to join the Association at the earliest opportunity,

3. Called on the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to give all possible financial and technical support to AATPO and to carry out the studies on the harmonization of the activities of AATPO with those of ECA and the Fedration of African Chambers of Commerce requested by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its eighth session;

4. Appealed to the United Nations Development Programme and the European Development Fund to give all possible financial assistance and other support to AATPO.

(c) 593(XXII) Establishment of a preferential trade area in North Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa 1980-2000 and the Final Act of Lagos 10/ which call for the establishment of a preferential trade area for the countries of North Africa,

Recalling further the resolutions on trade promotion in North Africa adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries at its meetings held in April 1985 and March 1986,

Reiterating its resolution 568(XXI) of April 1986 inviting member States to accelerate the process of economic integration within the existing subregional groupings,

1. Noted with satisfaction the acceptance by and the commitment of the respective governments to the establishment of a preferential trade area for North African countries;

2. Undertook to create between member States of the subregion a preferential trade area and a payments and clearing arrangement;

10/ A/S-11/14, annexes I and II

3. Decided to convene an intergovernmental group of experts to define actions in view of establishing the preferential trade area,

4. Requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute measures to convene the first meeting of the intergovernmental negotiating team to discuss the modalities for the establishment of the proposed preferential trade area and to submit a progress report to the next meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the Tangier-based MULPOC and to its own next meeting;

5. Requested the United Nations Development Programme to support the intergovernmental group of experts in their efforts to define actions for the establishment of the preferential trade area.